

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
3 October 2023
Remote Participation Meeting, 7:30pm

1. Call to Order: Commissioners Pamela Meister, Dianne Schaefer, Eric Stange, and JoAnn Robinson.
2. Review of protocols for remote meetings and hearings.
3. Review of minutes. The September minutes were reviewed and approved.
4. Discussions and Hearings:

7:35pm Formal Hearing 165 Franklin Street with owner, Kristen Germano, and architect, Jim Rissling.

The plan is to rehabilitate the house to its original character. Photos were shared of the house from 1980 and the present. Architectural drawings of all the elevations were presented. The proposed plans are to remove the addition on the side of the house and bring back the Greek Revival elements of the house. Currently the house is covered with vinyl siding. As part of the presentation, Commissioner Robinson, shared photos and descriptions of other Greek Revival houses in Massachusetts to use as models to recreate the house at 165 Franklin Street. It was determined that more details are needed and that the removal of the vinyl siding would allow for a better determination of what details are present from the original structure.

Commissioner Stange made a motion to allow the removal of the vinyl siding and the removal of the addition with the understanding that the hearing will continue at our next meeting in November with more detailed plans based on what was learned from the demolition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meister. A roll call vote was taken and all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

7:55pm Continued Hearing for 259 Mystic Street with Alvin Wong.

Mr. Wong and Commissioner Robinson have met at the property to discuss additional plans that require approval from the Commissioners. The proposed plan, following the removal of the asbestos siding, is to use cedar clapboard siding on the first and second floors, and cedar shingle siding on the turret on the second and third floor and on the entire third floor, install a Queen Anne Style front door with smaller dimensions with textured glass and side lights, and extend the bump out below the window with a door for access to the house.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stange and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer to approve the use of cedar shakes on the turret and third floor and cedar clapboards on the first and second floors as proposed, approve the front door change as proposed and approve the plans for the bump out on the condition that more detailed drawings by the

architect are presented to the Commissioners. A roll call vote was taken and all voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business:

A discussion was held regarding the property at 159 Warren Street. The Commission has yet to secure a historical structural engineer to evaluate the condition of the house.

New Business:

Commissioner Robinson gave a detailed presentation regarding the MBTA expansion in Arlington. She proposes to write a letter, with the Commissioners support, regarding the preservation of historic houses along Massachusetts Avenue and Broadway and houses in historic districts. She plans to make reference to the Master Plan and the inclusion of historical houses in the new zoning proposal. The letter will be sent to Town Manager, Jim Feeney, the Select Board and the Redevelopment Board.

The Arlington Historical Commission adjourned at 9:10pm.
The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be on November 7, 2023.

For the Arlington Historical Commission,

Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary
Arlington Historical Commission